

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04692 191340Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9034

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4692

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: EOC PATRIARCH'S LETTER TO THE DIRG

1. GOOD SOURCE REPORTS THAT PATRIARCH OF EOC, ABUNE YOHANNES, HAS WRITTEN "STRONG" LETTER TO THE DIRG. SOURCE ASSERTS THAT HE IS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT THE LETTER WAS SENT AND THAT HE KNOWS OF THE GENERAL CONTENTS OF THE LETTER ALTHOUGH NOT THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE.

2. LETTER REPORTEDLY TOLD DIRG THAT YOHANNES DID NOT WANT TO BE PATRIARCH AND ONLY ACCEPTED THE INTERIM POSITION TO "SAVE THE CHURCH." YOHANNES ALSO TOLD DIRG THAT ELECTION FOR NEW PATRIARCH (SCHEDULED TO OCCUR BEFORE JULY) MUST BE FREE FROM ANY DIRG INTERFERENCE AND THAT HE (YOHANNES) EXPECTED TO STEP DOWN AT THAT TIME. LASTLY, LETTER SAID TO HAVE URGED DIRG TO RELEASE ALL FEMALE POLITICAL PRISONERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO COLLATERAL ON THIS REPORT BUT OUR SOURCE IS GOOD AND HIS REPORT IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE ABUNE YOHANNES' POSITION ON ISSUES ADDRESSED IN LETTER.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 19 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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